

Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division
Status Update: July 18, 2008 at 3 p.m.

President Declares Major Disaster for Michigan (FEMA-1777-DR)

President Bush declared a major disaster on July 14 for 11 counties affected by the severe weather events June 6 through 13. The counties include Allegan, Barry, Eaton, Ingham, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Missaukee, Osceola, Ottawa and Wexford. Federal disaster aid has been made available for Michigan to supplement state and local recovery efforts.

With the major disaster declarations, the 11 counties are eligible for the FEMA Public Assistance Program, which could provide funding for projects such as the repair, restoration, reconstruction, or replacement of a public facility or infrastructure that was damaged or destroyed by the disaster.

Counties statewide are eligible for the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program to help enhance the safety of citizens during future natural hazards. Eligible projects could include removing homes in floodplains, increasing the size of culverts and bridges, and building safe rooms in public facilities.

Designations and Types of Assistance

- **Public Assistance Program** - Eligible applicants include state and local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations who incurred expenses related to this disaster for emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities. Eligible applicants could include emergency responders, public utilities, park and recreation, road and drain commissions, units of government, schools (including charters), electric cooperatives, and certain private/nonprofit organizations. Citizens are not eligible for this program.
- **Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program** - Under the Presidential Declaration, counties statewide are eligible for the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program to help enhance the safety of citizens during future natural hazards. Mitigation measures can help reduce personal loss, save lives, and lessen the cost of responding to and recovering from future hazards. Eligible projects could include removing homes in floodplains, increasing the size of culverts and bridges, and building safe rooms in public facilities.

Although the federal declaration indicates "statewide" availability of the funding, the Michigan Citizen-Community Emergency Response Coordinating Council (MCCERCC) is responsible for determining how the funds will be used within the State of Michigan. In accordance with Michigan Executive Order No. 2007-18, the MCCERCC is responsible for "soliciting, reviewing, and identifying hazard mitigation projects for funding, including, but not limited to, federal funding under Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 USC 5170c, and Sections 553 and 554 of the National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994, 42 USC 4104c and 42 USC 4014d." This includes the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds provided under federal declaration 1777-DR.

In the coming weeks, the MCCERCC will work with staff of the MSP/EMHSD in prioritizing and allocating the approximately \$3 million in HMGP funding available to Michigan under 1777-DR. The MCCERCC will ultimately select the specific projects and applicants that will be allowed to develop and submit applications for funding consideration to FEMA. Projects must meet FEMA benefit-cost and environmental considerations in order to be funded under the HMGP.

Applicant Briefings - Public Assistance Program

The briefings are to provide an overview of the Public Assistance Program, discuss eligibility requirements, and to ensure that potentially eligible jurisdictions complete the mandatory Request for Public Assistance (RPA) form. Eligible applicants will have the opportunity to meet with state and local officials at the briefings for assistance in completing the RPA form and discuss additional processes.

Tuesday, July 22 (Located in Ingham County)

Dawe Auditorium

2720 S. Washington Ave.

Lansing, Michigan 48910

Note - Sign out front says "Fresenius Medical." Entrance is under the covered driveway.

1-4 p.m.

Wednesday, July 23 (Located in Ottawa County)

Zeeland East High School - DeWitt Auditorium, Zeeland Performing Arts Center
3333 96th Ave. (corner of 96th Ave and Riley St)
Zeeland, Michigan 49464
1-4 p.m.

Thursday, July 24 (Located in Wexford County)

McGuire's Resort
7880 Mackinaw Trail
Cadillac, Michigan 49601
1-4 p.m.

U.S. Small Business Association (Mason County) Survey Results

The survey results conducted by the U.S. Small Business Association (SBA) showed that the major damaged properties in Mason County appear to have sufficient insurance to cover the damages from the severe storm and flash floods on June 12 and 13, 2008. The survey results revealed that the uninsured damage does not meet SBA minimum criteria (a combination of 25 homes and/or businesses with major uninsured damage) for an SBA Agency declaration. Overall, the SBA found 9 homes and 5 businesses for a total of 14. The threshold is 25.

Voluntary Organization Active in Disasters (VOAD)

For citizens who experienced uninsured catastrophic loss to their home, a viable option might include working with Voluntary Organization Active in Disasters (VOAD). These are faith-based organizations that provide disaster relief to citizens when no other option exists. Citizens should contact their local emergency manager to determine whether this is a viable option or not.